

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEQ-01 CIAE-00 SOE-02
COME-00 DODE-00 EB-08 EPA-01 INR-10 L-03 NSF-01
NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SS-15 SP-02
DOE-11 INT-05 OIC-02 AF-10 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12
NEA-10 /156 W

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INFO ALL OECD CAPITALS

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ALSO FOR USEEC USOECD

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, CCMS, SW, ECE

SUBJECT: ECE SENIOR ADVISORS ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS,
GENEVA, FEBRUARY 27-MARCH 3 -- TOXIC SUBSTANCES

1. SUMMARY: SENIOR ADVISORS REACHED NO AGREEMENT REGARD-
ING FUTURE ROLE OF ECE IN TOXIC SUBSTANCES/WASTE FIELDS.
ECE TOXICS PROJECTS POSTPONED BUT NOT FORECLOSED.
COMMENTS REFLECTED IMPORTANCE OF TOPIC AND FEAR OF
SPREADING NATIONAL EXPERT RESOURCES TOO THIN. U.S. DELE-
GATION RECEIVED FEW INQUIRIES ABOUT UPCOMING INFORMAL
TOXICS MEETING IN STOCKHOLM. END SUMMARY.

2. IN-DEPTH DISCUSSION AMONG ECE SENIOR ADVISORS ON
CONTROL OF FLOW OF TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND TOXIC WASTES
FEATURED ROUTINE REVIEW OF NATIONAL EFFORTS. MANY DELE-
GATIONS, INCLUDING U.S., NOTED SPLIT OF CONTROL AUTHORITY
AMONG NATIONAL LAWS. NEED FOR CONTROL OF PESTICIDES' USE
AND PREVENTIVE APPROACHES, I.E., NON-TOXIC ALTERNATIVES
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TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES AND LOW-WASTE INDUSTRIAL PROCESSES,
TO MINIMIZE ENVIRONMENTAL AND HUMAN EXPOSURE WERE NOTED.
COMMENDATION OF BROAD, MANAGEMENT APPROACH TO SUBJECT
FOUND IN SECRETARIAT'S DOCUMENTATION WAS WIDE.

3. DURING SAEP DISCUSSION OF TOXICS SUBJECT, FREQUENT
COMMENTS MADE REGARDING ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS,

ESPECIALLY IN OECD AND UNEP'S IRPTC. FEW FORMAL REFERENCES TO APRIL DISCUSSIONS IN STOCKHOLM. SKEPTICISM EXPRESSED REGARDING TIMELINESS OF ECE EXPLORATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON CONTROL OF TOXICS. IT WAS OBVIOUS FROM CORRIDOR DISCUSSIONS THAT WEST DID NOT FEEL ITS HOUSE WAS SUFFICIENTLY IN ORDER AT THIS TIME ON INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENT TO CONTROL. U.S. MADE THE POINT THAT THERE WAS IMPORTANCE TO KEEPING A LINK WITH THE EAST IN ECE ON TOXICS SO THAT WHEN THE TIME CAME TO PURSUE THE IDEA OF A CONVENTION IN DEPTH, AN AVENUE FOR CONTACT WOULD EXIST. SENIOR ADVISORS DEFERRED DECISION ON SECRETARIAT PROPOSALS FOR TOXICS WORK PROGRAM, ALLOWING WEST, IN UPCOMING INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS THIS YEAR, TO DISTILL THOUGHTS ON SCOPE, TIMETABLE, MECHANISM, AND CONTENT OF POTENTIAL INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION BEFORE ENGAGING EAST IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSIONS.

4. PAUCITY OF EXPERTS IN THE TOXICS FIELD AND CURRENT INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC DEMANDS BEING MADE ON THEM STRONGLY POINTED OUT, NOTABLY BY UK AND CANADA, AS DRAWBACK TO ADDITIONAL INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM ON TOXICS IN ECE.

5. IN CORRIDOR COMMENTS, EC COMMISSION AND FRG ALSO QUESTIONED ECE'S ABILITY TO CARRY OUT SIGNIFICANT, TIMELY EFFORT IN TOXICS AND NECESSITY FOR ECE ROLE IN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOXIC SUBSTANCES FIELD. EC-9 SUGGESTED CONCENTRATION ON WASTE ASPECT, RATHER THAN TOXIC SUBSTANCES CONTROL, BUT, WITH U.S. PRODDING, SAEP AVOIDED PRE-JUDGMENT OF FOCUS OF ANY FUTURE ECE PROGRAM.

6. SPECIAL EXTRA MEETING ON FUTURE ECE TOXICS PROGRAM PRODUCED AGREEMENT TO CREATE AN AD HOC WORKING GROUP TO CONSIDER ADVISABILITY OF ECE PROJECT(S) AND SPECIFIC CONTENT. GROUP'S RECOMMENDATIONS WOULD BE SUBMITTED TO 7TH SESSION OF SAEP FOR DECISION.

7. IN INFORMAL TALKS RE UPCOMING INFORMAL DISCUSSIONS IN STOCKHOLM, FINNS AND DANES RAISED QUESTIONS AS TO PRECISE AGENDA AND PURPOSE. NORWEGIANS, IN SIDE REMARK TO SWEDES, EXPRESSED SOME OF SAME CONCERNS. WE DEFERRED TO SWEDES. (SWEDES GAVE U.S. DEL GRANT COPY OF AGENDA, WHICH THEY SAY IS ALREADY IN EPA HANDS.) MANY INVITED GOVERNMENTS WERE WAITING TO SEE WHO U.S. NAMES AS DELEGATES BEFORE DOING SAME. FRG SAID HARTKOPF AND KATIN WOULD BE DELS. ITALIANS SAY THEY HAVE SELECTED REPRESENTATIVE. UK ANTICIPATES FAIRCLOUGH WILL ATTEND. SWEDES SAY FORMAL ACCEPTANCE RECEIVED SO FAR ONLY FROM

DENMARK. NO CONSENSUS AS TO OUTCOME AND FOLLOW-UP TO STOCKHOLM MEETING YET APPARENT. COUNTRIES LOOKING TO RUMP CCMS DISCUSSIONS TO CLARIFY SCOPE OF STOCKHOLM MEETING AND POSSIBLE FUTURE INTERNATIONAL EFFORTS.

8. FOR ACTION: UK DEL (DORMER) SAID UK DOE HAS NOT RECEIVED INVITATION OR INFORMATION CONCERNING PROPOSED CONVERSATION ABOUT TOXIC CHEMICALS TO FOLLOW CCMS PLENARY, DESPITE INQUIRY TO U.S. EMBASSY LONDON. REPEAT OF EARLIER CABLE ON THIS ITEM OR ADDITIONAL INSTRUCTIONS TO NATO CAPITALS REQUIRED. SORENSON

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Message Attributes

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